

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1.(Currently Amended) A battery pack, including a plurality of batteries ~~[[11]]~~ arranged in parallel and accommodated in a case ~~[[2]]~~ that forms a cooling-air passage ~~[[3]]~~, wherein the cooling-air passage ~~[[3]]~~ and a gas-discharge passage ~~[[4]]~~ for discharging gas leaking from the battery ~~[[11]]~~ when the battery ~~[[11]]~~ falls into abnormal state are formed and separated from each other in the case ~~[[2]]~~.

2.(Currently Amended) The battery pack according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of battery units ~~[[12]]~~ each of which includes a plurality of batteries ~~[[11]]~~ that are arranged coaxially and are connected in series are arranged in parallel in the case ~~[[2]]~~, and the gas-discharge passage ~~[[4]]~~ is formed in regions corresponding to both sides of the case along a direction in which the batteries are arranged in parallel and a region corresponding to the connection between the batteries ~~[[11]]~~ in the case ~~[[2]]~~.

3.(Currently Amended) The battery pack according to claim 1, wherein

through holes $[(7)]$ through which the batteries $[(11)]$ are inserted are formed to extend through both sidewalls $[(5a)]$ of the case $[(2)]$ and passage sidewalls $[(4a)]$ for separating the gas-discharge passage $[(4)]$ from the cooling-air passage $[(3)]$.

4.(Currently Amended) The battery pack according to claim 3, wherein a connection plate $[(8)]$ having connection means $[(8b)]$ for sequentially connecting the batteries $[(11)]$ or battery units $[(12)]$ that are adjacent in series is provided on the outer surface of each of both sidewalls $[(5a)]$ of the case $[(2)]$.

5.(Currently Amended) The battery pack according to claim 1, wherein the case $[(2)]$ is formed by: a case body $[(5)]$ in which the cooling-air passage $[(3)]$ is formed in such a manner that one side face is opened and the other side face is closed and the gas-discharge passage $[(4)]$ is formed in such a manner that one side face is closed and the other side face is opened; and cover plates ~~(6a, 6b)~~ for respectively covering both side faces of the case body $[(5)]$.